

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
February 22, 2012
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Martin R. Castro, Chairman
Robert A. Cantone
Terry Cosgrove
Marylee V. Freeman
Nabi Fakroddin
Spencer Leak, Sr.
Munir Muhammad
Rozanne Ronen
David J. Walsh
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir (Via telephone)
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

NONE

Staff

Michael J. Evans
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Christine Welninski
LaNade Bridges

Members of Public:

None

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NOTICE:

The executive/closed session of this meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission was audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On February 22, 2012, at 10:03 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Yadgir gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the Acting General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle L. Gray, that she would be unable to be physically present at today's meeting. Commissioner Yadgir requested to participate via telephone.
- 3) The Commission voted to allow Commissioner Yadgir to participate in the meeting via telephone. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Motion carried 11-0.

II. Consideration of Minutes

January 25, 2012

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2011, as amended to correct typographical errors. Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Commissioner Muhammad, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

Chairman Castro reported that Commissioner David Chang had not been re-appointed by the Governor. A letter would be prepared for Commissioner Chang to acknowledge his service on the Commission. Chairman Castro also announced that he will substitute on Panel B of the Commission until a new Commissioner is appointed.

The Chairman has spoken to Senator Antonio Munoz concerning Executive Appointments, and the Chairman has communicated to Senator Munoz the Commission's need to have this vacancy filled as expeditiously as possible.

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The Chairman informed the Commission that he had not received a response from the Illinois Attorney General's Office to the letter he had sent the Attorney General regarding alleged racial profiling by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office.

Finally, the Chairman distributed a report prepared by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in September 2011 called *Peer-to Peer Violence and Bullying: Examining the Federal Response*.

IV. Staff Reports

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers was in Springfield. Mr. Chambers submitted his written report to the body.

B. *Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer*

Dr. Ewa was in Springfield. Dr. Ewa submitted his written report to the body.

C. *Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge*

Judge Evans submitted the Administrative Law Section's statistics for the month of January 2012.

D. *Donyelle L. Gray, Acting General Counsel*

Ms. Gray distributed the year-end FOIA report, and stated it would be posted on the Commission's website.

Ms. Gray requested a vote on changing the March 2012 and May 2012 Panel A and En Banc meetings. Specifically, Commissioners were asked to approve moving the March 2012 meetings from March 28th to March 21st, and moving the May 2012 meetings from May 23rd to May 30th.

The Commission voted to approve the new meeting dates. Motion made by Commissioner Freeman and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 12-0.

Commissioner Walsh volunteered to substitute for the March 21st meeting because Commissioner Yadgir had a previously scheduled commitment to be out of town on that date.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Amendment to 2012 Meeting Calendar – March 21, 2012 and May 30, 2012

The Commission voted to approve the new March and May 2012 meeting dates during the Acting General Counsel's report.

B. Anti-Bullying

The Prevent School Violence Illinois Coalition and Cassidy Anti-Bullying Bill

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The Commission voted to join the Prevent School Violence Illinois Coalition. The Commission also voted to support HB5290, anti-bullying legislation sponsored by Illinois State Representative Kelly Cassidy. Motion made by Chairman Castro and seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

Also, Commissioner Yadgir agreed to attend and represent the Commission at meetings of the Prevent School Violence Illinois Coalition.

VI. New Business

A. Meet the HRC Staff

No staff members were presented at this time. The item was continued to the next *en banc* meeting.

VII. Executive Session

Executive Session

Pursuant to 5 ILCS § 120/2(c)(1) and 5 ILCS § 120/2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act, the Commissioners voted to close a portion of the public meeting at 10:31 a.m. Motion made by Chairman Castro, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 13-0.

At 10:46 a.m., the open meeting resumed.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Muhammad. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
Acting General Counsel